

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a coated cutting tool comprising at least one layer of textured α -alumina, the method comprising:

- introducing a tool surface to be coated into a reactive atmosphere comprising H_2 and/or Ar;
- providing the reactive atmosphere with a concentration of oxidizing species below 5 ppm;
- initiating nucleation of the α -alumina layer on the surface by first introducing HCl and CO_2 gasses into the atmosphere, ~~than~~ then introducing $AlCl_3$ gas into the atmosphere;
- maintaining a temperature of 950-1050°C during nucleation of the α -alumina layer; and
- introducing a catalyst and a texture modifying agent into the atmosphere during growth of the α -alumina layer.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the oxidizing species comprises water vapor, the catalyst comprises H_2S , and the texture modifying agent comprises ZrCl_4 .

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein 0.05-10 percent by volume of the texture modifying agent is introduced.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein 0.2-5 percent by volume of the texture modifying agent is introduced.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein 0.5-2 percent by volume of the texture modifying agent is introduced.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the addition of the texture modifying agent to the reaction gas mixture is 0.05-10 percent by volume of the total reaction gas mixture.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the addition of the texture modifying agent is 0.2-5 percent by volume of the total reaction gas mixture.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the addition of the texture modifying agent is 0.5-2 percent by volume of the total reaction gas mixture.

21. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the α -alumina layer consists essentially of single phase α -alumina with a columnar grain-structure.

22. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the texture modifying agent comprises ZrCl_4 and the textured α -alumina is textured in a [300] direction with a texture coefficient > 1.5 .

23 (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein a concentration of ZrCl_4 is 0.05 to 10 percent by volume of a total reaction gas volume.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the concentration of ZrCl_4 is 0.2 to 5 percent by volume of the total reaction gas volume.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the concentration of ZrCl_4 is 0.5 to 2 percent by volume of the total reaction gas volume.

26. (New) The method according to claim 13, comprising applying at least one additional layer to the coated cutting tool, the at least one additional layer comprising a carbide, nitride, carbonitride, oxycarbide and/or oxycarbonitride of a metal element selected from group IVB, group VB and group VIB of the Periodic Table, B, Al and Si and/or mixtures thereof.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the at least one additional layer comprises a layer of $\text{TiC}_x\text{N}_y\text{O}_z$.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the layer of TiC_xNyO_z is an innermost layer and the α -alumina layer is an outermost layer.

29. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the of least one additional layer comprises a layer of metal- C_xNyO_z , the layer of metal- C_xNyO_z deposited on top of the α -alumina layer.

30. (New) The method according to claim 26, comprising applying a TiN layer to the coated cutting tool, wherein the TiN layer is an outermost layer.

31. (New) The method according to claim 26, comprising applying a TiN layer to the α -alumina layer, wherein the TiN layer is an outermost layer.

32. (New) The method according to claim 13, comprising applying a TiN layer to the α -alumina layer, wherein the TiN layer is an outermost layer.